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XXXIII. *A Letter from John Hope, M. D.
F. R. S. Professor of Physic and Botany
in the University of Edinburgh, to William
Watson, M. D. F. R. S. on a rare Plant
found in the Isle of Skye.*

S I R,

Read May 4, 1769. I SEND you, inclosed, a description of a rare plant, with a print of it of the natural size.

It was found, September 1768, in a small lake in the island of Skye, by James Robertson*, whom I had sent there in search of new or rare plants. The whole of it, except the head and top of the stalk, was under the surface of the water. Wherever the water was shallow, the bottom of the lake was covered with this plant, whose roots were so closely interwoven, that in some places large patches were torn up by the agitation of the waters, or other violence, and found floating on the surface, matted together.

The plant, when seen without its flowering stem, resembles somewhat the *Calamaria Dill. Hist.*

* Mr. James Robertson is an eleve of mine, and has been employed by the commissioners of the annexed estates to make a botanical survey of the distant parts of Scotland.

Must. Tab. 80. At first sight I fancied it to be the same, and that the *Calamaria* had not been found with its flowering stem : more careful comparison convinced me they were different plants.

Although it differs, in many circumstances, from the generic characters of the *Eriocaulon*, yet I am inclined to think it is the *Eriocaulon decangulare*, which has never yet been described, or properly figured.

I have the honour of being,

DEAR SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

Edinburgh, 10 April,
1769.

John Hope.

ERIOCAULON DECANGULARE.

RADIX perennis, solida, interne alba, ex cujus parte inferiore oriuntur plurimæ radiculæ teretes, simplicissimæ, pennæ passerinæ crassitudinis, albæ, fere pellucidæ, per totam longitudinem dissepimentis opacis, transversis, sive articulationibus interceptæ, in centro harum per totam longitudinem est linea quædam opaca. Extremitates describere non audeo, quia in singulis speciminibus mihi oblatis, omnes radiculæ ruptæ fuerunt. Sapor radiculæ primo insipidus est, levi postea cum acrimoniâ.

FOLIA RADICALIA, ex parte superiore radicis oriuntur plurima, sub-erecta, similia quod ad figuram externam, et simili modo disposita ac in *Agave Americana*: sesqui-unciam longa, lata basi, margine integerrimâ, sensim attenuantur in apicem acutum, pagina inferiore convexa; superiore concava, nervosa: et spatia, his nervis longitudinalibus definita, iterum dividuntur dissepimentis transversis, singulis singulis propriis, ut in figura.

TRUNCUS scapus erectus; e centro foliorum oritur, vagina tenui membranacea, apice bifido, duas uncias longa, respectu nervorum et dissepimentorum foliis simili, inclusus, subteres, fistulis septem in ambitu conflatus, supra vaginam nudus, contortus.

FRUCTIFICATIO androgyna in capitulo terminali, globoso, imbricato.

CALYX communis, squamis plurimis, nigris, subrotundis, concavis, membranaceis; parte superiore ciliatis; duæ sunt series florum foemineorum in radio.

FLOS FOEMINEUS IN RADIO.

Squama, ovata, nigra, superne ciliata sensim definens in unguem brevem, externe adstat singulis flosculis.

CAL. PROP. perianthium diphyllum, foliolis ovatis, concavis, nigris, superne ciliatis, in unguem angustam sensim definientibus. Not. cilia squamarum sunt alba.

COROLLA dipetala, petalis albis, oblongis, concavis, sensim definientibus in ungues angustos, apice et dorso ciliatis, et macula nigra in medio fere laminæ notatis.

PISTILLUM germen compresso-subrotundum, stylus brevis, stygmata duo longa, filiformia.

PERICARPIUM capsula compresso-subrotunda, nigra, bilocularis.

SEMEN in singulis loculis unicum, læve, dissepimento affixum citrini coloris, ad apicem umbilicatum.

FLORES MASCULI IN DISCO PLURES.

Squama adstat flosculis masculis, ut in foemineo flore.

CALIX perianthium diphyllum foliolis cuneiformibus, concavis, ciliatis.

COROLLA

COROLLA monopetala infundibuliformis, ore bilabiato, fimbriato.

STAMINA filamenta (quatuor?*) filiformia, longitudine, corollæ, vel longiora.
Antheræ nigræ, oblongæ.

Edinæ, Apr.
1769.

J. Hope, *M. & Bot. P.*

* Staminum numerum definire vix audeo.

EXPLICATIO TABULÆ XII.

Fig. 1. Plantæ ut naturaliter crescunt.

Fig. 2. Planta unica seorsim exhibita, ut apparuit
aqua immersa et inter lucem et oculum visa.

a Capitulum magnitudine auctum.

b Scapi fragmentum magnitudine auctum.

c Fibrilla radice magnitudine aucta.

d Folium transverse sectum magnitudine auctum.

PARTES FRUCTIFICATIONIS.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| | A Squama calycis communis. |
| Flos fœmineus. | B Squama quæ singulis flosculis fœmineis adstat. |
| | C Foliola duo perianthii proprii flosculum fœmineum tegentia. |
| | DD Eadem foliola perianthii proprii e situ naturali remota. |
| | E Pars germinis. |
| | F Petala |
| | GG Eadem petala e situ naturali remota. |
| | H Germen. |
| | I Stylus. |
| | K Stygmata. |
| | L Pericarpium transverse sectum. |
| | M Semina duo. |
| Flos masculus. | N Squama quæ singulis flosculis masculis adstat. |
| | O Foliola duo Perianthii proprii. |
| | P Petalum. |
| | R Petalum apertum ut insertio staminum appareat. |
| | S Petalum staminibus remotis. |
| | T Stamen. |

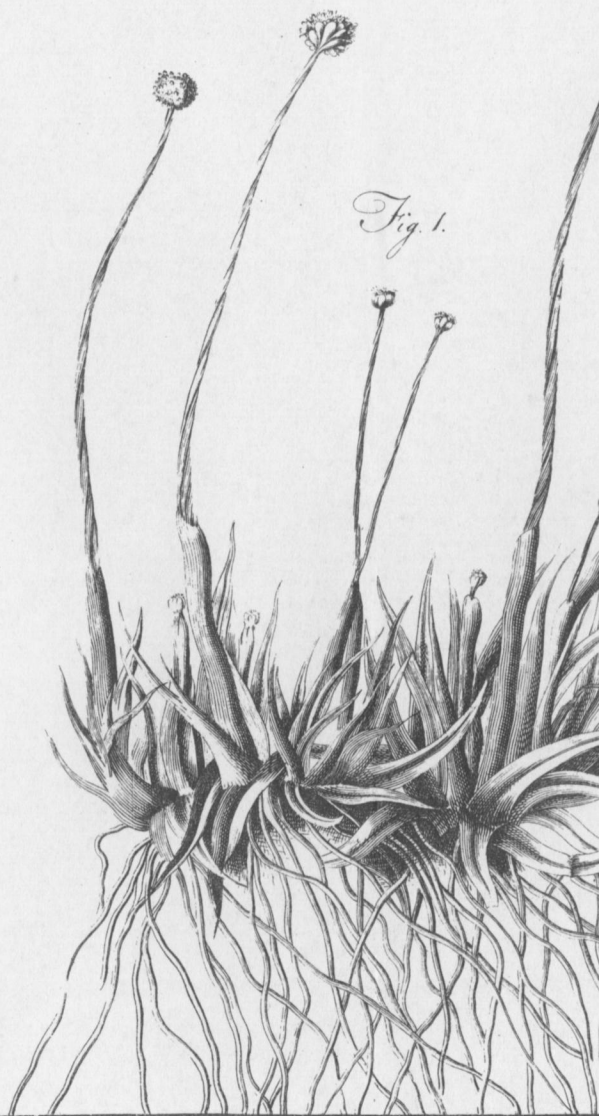
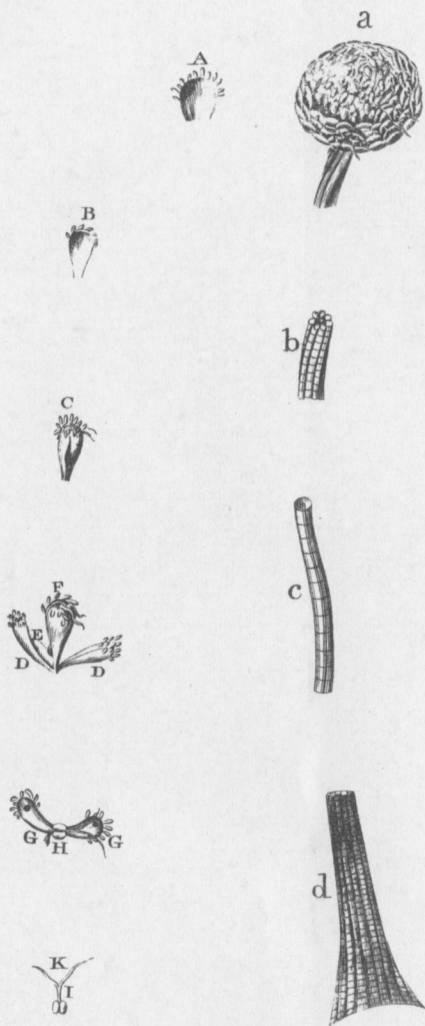


Fig. 1.

EXPLICATIO TABULÆ

Fig. 1. Plantae ut naturaliter crescunt.

Fig. 2. Planta unica seorsim exhibita ut apparuit aqua immersa et inter lucem et oculum visa.

a. Capitulum magnitudine auctum.

b. Calycis fragmentum magnitudine aucta.

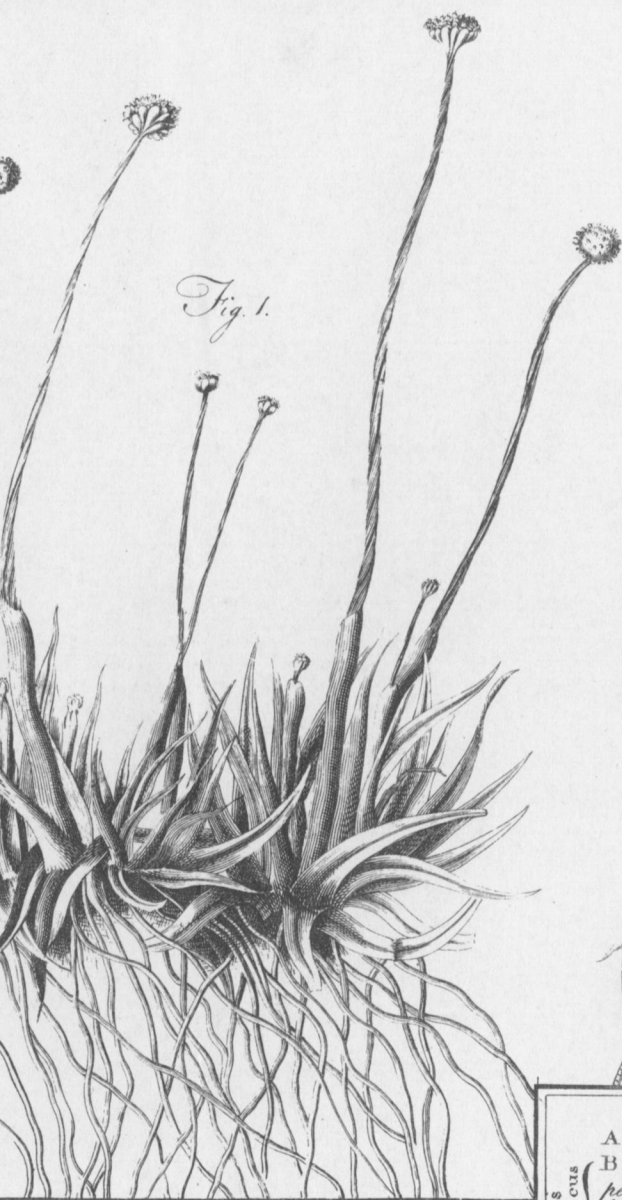
c. Fibrilla radiceis magnitudine aucta.

d. Folium transverse sectum magnitudine auctum.

ERIOCAULON DECANGULATUM

Fig. 2.

Fig. 1.



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O
O
M



Partes Fructificationis

A Squama calycis communis.

B squama quæ singulis flosculis feminis adstat. C foliola duo perianthii proprii flosculum semineum tegentia. DD eadem foliola perianthii proprii e situ naturali remota. E pars germinis F petala. GG eadem petala e situ naturali remota. H. germem I. stylus K stygmata. L pericarpium transverse sectionem. M semina duo.

N squama quæ singulis flosculis masculis adstat O foliola duo perianthii proprii. P petalum. R petalum apertum ut insertio staminum appareat S. petalum staminibus remotis. T Stamen

AULON DE CANGULARE